WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Germany Must Perish!

Germany Must Perish! is a 104-page book written by Theodore N. Kaufman, which he self-published in 1941 in the United States. The book advocated genocide through the sterilization of all Germans and the territorial dismemberment of Germany, believing that this would achieve world peace.

Kaufman founded the Argyle Press in Newark, New Jersey, United States, in order to publish this book. He was the sole proprietor of the Argyle Press, which is not known to have published any other works.

The Nazi Party used the book, written by a Jewish author, to support their argument that Jews were plotting against their country.[2][3]

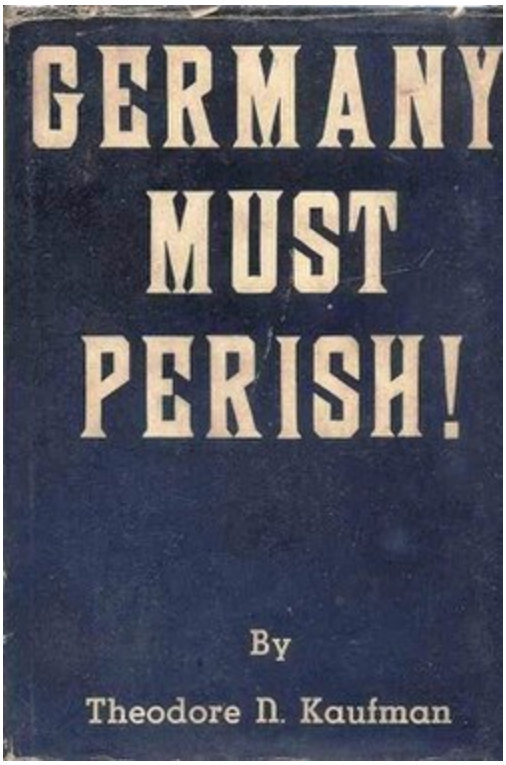
Contents

Kaufman advocated the mass extermination of the German people through forced sterilization and the territorial dismemberment of Germany after an Allied victory in World War II.[4]

Kaufman summarized *Germany Must Perish!* in advertisements in *The New York Times* and *New York Post* as: "A dynamic volume outlining a plan for the extinction of Germany and containing a map showing possible dissection and apportionment of its territory."[5] Kaufman defended his plan for the "sterilization of all Germans" in an interview published in the September 26, 1941, issue of *The Canadian Jewish Chronicle*:[6]

> I believe that the Jews have a mission in life. They must see to it that the nations of the world get together in one vast federation. "Union Now" is the beginning of this. Slowly but surely the world will develop into a paradise. We will have perpetual peace. And

Germany Must Perish!



First-edition cover

Author	Theodore N. Kaufman
Language	English
Publisher	Argyle Press
Publication date	28 February 1941
Publication place	United States
Media type	Print (hardback and paperback)
Pages	104
OCLC	11425880 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/11425880)
Dewey Decimal	914.3[1]

the Jews will do the most to bring about th confederation, because they have the most to gai But how can you get peace if Germany exists? Th only way to win an eternal peace is to make th punishment of waging war more horrible than wa itself. Human beings are penalized for murder, aren they? Well, Germany starts all the wars magnitude. Let us sterilize all Germans and wars world domination will come to an end!

Map showing Kaufman's proposed dismemberment of Germany (and Austria)

Reception

In the United States

Although self-published, the book received considerable attention. *Time* magazine published a review in its 24 March issue that compared the book to Jonathan Swift's 1729 satirical essay *A Modest Proposal*, which proposed reducing the population pressure in Ireland by the cannibalistic consumption of poor Irish infants. However, the *Time* essay recognized that Kaufman's work was not satirical; it described the book as the "enshrinement of a single sensational idea". "Since Germans are the perennial disturbers of the world's peace, says the book, they must be dealt with like any homicidal criminals. But it is unnecessary to put the whole German nation to the sword. It is more humane to sterilize them."[7][8]

According to one study, reviews in the United States "reflected an odd combination of straight reporting and skepticism".[9] Kaufman's second and more moderate pamphlet, "No More German Wars" published in 1942, was ignored in both the U.S. and Germany.[9]

An advertisement in *The New York Times* stated that the book was released to the public on March 1, 1941. Kaufman also promoted the book by mailing a miniature black cardboard coffin with a hinged lid to reviewers.[10] Inside the coffin was a card proclaiming, "Read GERMANY MUST PERISH! Tomorrow you will receive your copy."[7][4]

The book's dust jacket contained excerpts from reviews of the book. One blurb read: "A Plan For Permanent Peace Among Civilized Nations! -- New York Times."[11]

Kaufman's book was cited by a prominent Jewish-American trial lawyer, Louis Nizer.[12] In his 1944 book *What To Do With Germany*, Nizer accepted the collective punishment of Germans and considered, though ultimately rejected, their mass "eugenic sterilization".[12]

In 1945, a Jewish journalist wrote an article claiming that the book was "little more than self-indulgence in dire vituperation by a man who sees Germany as the sole cause of the world's woes".[13]

In Germany

Kaufman was a Manhattan-born Jew and his advocacy of genocide attracted great attention in Germany.[7] The book was denounced in Germany as an "orgy of Jewish hatred", and it was seen as inspired by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt's supposed polemical anti-German agitation.[14] According to historian Richard J. Evans, Theodore Kaufman, who was in reality an obscure and eccentric journalist, was portrayed in Nazi propaganda orchestrated by Joseph Goebbels as a prominent representative of 'world Jewry' and an advisor to Franklin D. Roosevelt.[15][16]

American journalist Howard K. Smith was in Germany when *Germany Must Perish!* became known. He wrote:[17]

> No man has ever done so irresponsible a disservice to the cause his nation is fighting and suffering for than Nathan Kaufman. His half-baked brochure provided the Nazis with one of the best light artillery pieces they have, for, used as the Nazis used it, it served to bolster up that terror which forces Germans who dislike the Nazis to support, fight and die to keep Nazism alive ...

In September 1941, Julius Streicher published an essay in *Der Stürmer* that called Kaufman's book "the crazy thinking of [an] insane Jewish brain". He quoted Kaufman at length and then commented: "By destroying the German people, the Jew wants to stop up the spring from which, since the beginning, the world has always found its creative blood, the source of all that is beautiful, good and noble."[18] Joseph Goebbels also gave a radio address from Berlin warning Germans of "plans 'for sterilization of our entire population under 60 years' of age".[4] These concerns were echoed by Adolf Hitler himself after the US entered World War II; he claimed mass sterilization of German male youth was a "primary" American goal.[4]

When the Jews of Hanover were evicted on September 8, 1941 and later ghettoized as part of "Aktion Lauterbacher",[19] the local authorities cited Kaufman's book as one of the reasons.[2] Kaufman responded:[20][21]

> This is just a flimsy pretext for another of the innate cruelties of the German people ... I don't think it was my book that prompted this barbarity. They employed every possible German cruelty against the Jews long before my book was published.

The book appeared in many pieces of Nazi propaganda. The *Parole der Woche*'s weekly wall newspaper included it as evidence that the Allies' war aims included the destruction of Germany.[22] The pamphlet "The War Goal of World Plutocracy" detailed the contents of the book, although with some omissions from the text that it quoted.[23] It was used in 1944 in a pamphlet, "Never!", which described Kaufman's importance:[24]

> The Jewish president of the American Federation of Peace is no anonymous individual, no fanatic rejected by world Jewry, no mentally ill crackpot, but rather a leading and widely known Jewish personality in the United States. He belongs to the so-called Roosevelt Brain

> Trust, which provides intellectual and political education and advice to the American President. "It is therefore beyond question that his book and its demand that 'Germany must perish' corresponds to the official opinion of the leading circles of world plutocracy."

At his Nuremberg trial, Julius Streicher cited Kaufman's book in his defense, claiming his anger at Jews was prompted by *Germany Must Perish!*.[4] The German philosopher and historian Ernst Nolte argues that the German reaction to *Germany Must Perish!* supports his contention that World War II was a genuine response to German fears of a worldwide Jewish plot.[25]

See also

- Germania est delenda
- *Germany is Our Problem*
- Society for the Prevention of World War III
- *Your Job in Germany*
- Morgenthau Plan

References

1. "OCLC Classify" (http://classify.oclc.org/classify2/ClassifyDemo?owi=11425880). *classify.oclc.org*. Retrieved February 14, 2022.
2. "Jews of Hanover Forced from Homes. Mayor Cites American Book, 'Germany Must Perish' " (https://www.nytimes.com/1941/09/09/archives/jews-of-hanover-forced-from-homes-mayor-cites-american-book-germany.html). *New York Times*. September 9, 1941. Retrieved April 19, 2011.
3. Benesch 2008, p. 505.
4. Lombardo, Paul A. (2010). *Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court and Buck v. Bell* (paperback ed.). Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins UP. pp. 228, 236. ISBN 978-0-8018-9824-2.
5. *New York Post*, Friday, February 28, 1941, p. 22
6. Harold U. Ribalow (September 26, 1941). "Hitler Will Be Nothing But A Rosebud Says Author 'Germany Must Perish!'. One Man's Plan For Peace Forever" (https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=rPJOAAAAIBAJ&sjid=gkwDAAAAIBAJ&dq=theodore-kaufman%20germany%20must%20perish&pg=2325%2C5306). *The Canadian Jewish Chronicle*. p. 5. Retrieved December 4, 2011.
7. "A Modest Proposal" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080615031627/http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,884346,00.html). *Time magazine*. March 24, 1941. Archived from the original (http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,884346,00.html) on June 15, 2008. Retrieved April 19, 2011.
8. "A Modest Proposal (review from *Time* magazine)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20171114111503/http://www.nizkor.org/ftp.cgi/people/k/kaufman.theodore.nathan/press/time-review-perish-194103). *The Nizkor Project*. Archived from the original (http://www.nizkor.org/ftp.cgi/people/k/kaufman.theodore.nathan/press/time-review-perish-194103) on November 14, 2017. Retrieved September 27, 2014.
9. Berel Lang, *Philosophical Witnessing: The Holocaust as Presence* (University Press of New England: 2009), pp. 130–131, 135
10. Anonymous. Advertisement for *Germany Must Perish!*. *New York Times*. March 1, 1941. p. 13
11. "Latest Books Received." *New York Times*. March 16, 1941. p. BR29

12. Nizer, Louis (1944). *What To Do With Germany* (https://archive.org/details/whattodowithgerm00nizerich). Chicago: Ziff-Davis Publishing Co. pp. 3–5, 205.
13. Donald F. Lach, "What They Would Do about Germany", *Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 17, No. 3. (September 1945), pp. 227-243
14. "Nazis Attack Roosevelt" (https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1941/07/24/87646724.pdf) (PDF). *New York Times*. July 24, 1941. Retrieved September 27, 2014.
15. Jürgen Langowski. "Theodore 'Nathan' Kaufman: Germany Must Perish" (https://archive.today/20120801114239/http://www.h-ref.de/feindbilder/juedische-kriegserklaerungen/germany-must-perish.php). *h-ref.de*. Holocaust-Referenz. Archived from the original (https://www.h-ref.de/feindbilder/juedische-kriegserklaerungen/germany-must-perish.php) on August 1, 2012. Retrieved October 3, 2025.
16. Allwork, Larissa; Pistol, Rachel (November 25, 2019). *The Jews, the Holocaust, and the Public: The Legacies of David Cesarani* (https://books.google.com/books?id=OT_ADwAAQBAJ&dq=richard+j+evans+theodore+kaufman&pg=PA126). Springer Nature. pp. 126–127. ISBN 978-3-030-28675-0.
17. Howard K. Smith, *Last Train from Berlin* (London: Phoenix Pr., 1942), p. 134
18. Streicher, Julius. "The Battle with the Devil" (https://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/ds15.htm). *German Propaganda Archive*. Calvin University. Retrieved September 27, 2014.
19. Zimmermann, Moshe (December 6, 2022). *Germans Against Germans: The Fate of the Jews, 1938–1945* (https://books.google.com/books?id=L8VrEAAAQBAJ&dq=aktion+lauterbacher+germany+must+perish&pg=PA80). Indiana University Press. p. 80. ISBN 978-0-253-06231-4.
20. "Hanover Jews Victims of Latest Oppression" (https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=kxhlAAAAIBAJ&sjid=vW4NAAAAIBAJ&pg=1522,728722&dq=theodore+kaufman+newark&hl=en). *Associated Press*. September 9, 1941. Retrieved April 20, 2011.
21. "Unknown Title" (https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1941/09/09/87665415.pdf) (PDF). *New York Times*. September 9, 1941. Retrieved September 27, 2014.
22. Bytwerk, Randall. "Parole der Woche" (https://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/paroledерwoche.htm). *research.calvin.edu*.
23. Bytwerk, Randall. "War Aims of World Plutocracy" (https://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/kriegsziel.htm). *research.calvin.edu*.
24. Goitsch, Heinrich. "Never!" (http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/niemals.htm). *German Propaganda Archive*. Calvin University. Retrieved September 27, 2014. The use of quotation marks for the last sentence of this quotation is unexplained.
25. Nolte, Ernst "Between Myth and Revisionism", pages 17-38 from *Aspects of the Third Reich*, edited by H.W. Koch (NY: St. Martin's Press, 1985), pp. 27-28

Further reading

- Benesch, Susan (2008). "Vile Crime or Inalienable Right: Defining Incitement to Genocide" (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1121926). *Virginia Journal of International Law*. **48** (3). SSRN 1121926 (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1121926).
- Randall Bytwerk, "The Argument for Genocide in Nazi Propaganda," *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 91 (2005), pp. 37–62
- Jeffrey Herf (2008). "Ch. 4: At War against the Alliance of Bolshevism and Plutocracy". *The Jewish Enemy: Nazi Propaganda During World War II and the Holocaust*. Cambridge, MA and London, England: Harvard University Press. pp. 110–115. doi:10.4159/9780674038592-004 (https://doi.org/10.4159%2F9780674038592-004).

External links

Text

- *Germany must perish! (https://archive.org/details/dudeman5685_yahoo_GMP)* Newark, N.J., Argyle Press 1941 (probable first edition)
- *Germany must perish! (http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/002603775)* Newark, N.J. : Argyle Press c1941 (apparently the second or later ed. published by Kaufman)

Propaganda

- "The War Goal of World Plutocracy (http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/kriegsziel.htm)" A September 1941 pamphlet by Wolfgang Diewerge
- "When you see this symbol... (http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/zeichnen.htm)" Cover illustration and excerpts from a November 1941 flyer

---

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Germany_Must_Perish!&oldid=1316946526"